GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5061
ANSWERED ON:05.04.2017
War Crimes by Sri Lanka
Jayadevan Shri C. N.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent United Nations report raising serious concern about the delay in addressing the allegations of war crimes and in meeting other promises Colombo made when it co-sponsored a resolution at UN Human Rights Council in 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to take up the matter with the Sri Lankan Government in order to protect the interests of Tamils in Sri Lanka?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) During the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)'s 34th Session from 27 February − 24 March, 2017, the Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR) on Sri Lanka was presented before the Council on 22 March 2017. This report assessed the progress made in the implementation of UNHRC resolution 30/1, on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka between October 2015 and January 2017. On that basis, the HCHR has identified efforts that need to be taken to achieve progress in the reconciliation and accountability agenda to which the Government of Sri Lanka has committed by agreeing to be the co-sponsor of the resolution that was tabled before the UNHRC. The HCHR also advocates for the Government of Sri Lanka to continue meaningful consultations with relevant stakeholders on transitional justice and the reform agenda, and urges the UNHRC to sustain its close engagement and monitoring of developments in Sri Lanka.

(c) India continues to remain engaged with Sri Lanka at all levels in its efforts to build a future that accommodates the aspirations of all sections of society, including the Sri Lankan Tamil community, for a life of equality, justice, peace and dignity in a united Sri Lanka. The Government has consistently called upon Sri Lanka during bilateral discussions and in the international fora to fulfill its commitments made to the international community on addressing the issues related to protecting the interest of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Since the end of the conflict in Sri Lanka, the focus of Government of India has been on the welfare and well-being of the Tamil citizens of Sri Lanka. In this context, the Government has implemented and continues to implement a wide range of projects covering assistance projects for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the areas of housing, de-mining, education, connectivity, livelihood restoration, economic revival etc.